

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 15 and 16 are amended, and claims 21-24 are added. Support for the amendments is found in Figs. 3A and 3B and in the specification at, for example, page 24, lines 12-18. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiners Rendon and Mosser for the courtesies extended during the April 27, 2007 personal interview. The substance of the interview is discussed below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 8-10 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,358 to Harima. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, displaying a plurality of effect objects provided three-dimensionally at the side that the first object is going to move from the location of the first object, and that the plurality of effect objects sequentially disappear in proximate order from the location of the first object at a time in which it is judged to start the motion of the first object. These features are shown in Figs. 3A and 3B, for example.

As shown in Figs. 3A and 3B, as the attacked character E starts moving backwards in the direction indicated by vector M, a plurality of effect objects B1-B4 are provided at the side that the attached object is going to move. Further, the plurality of effect objects are displayed three-dimensionally in the direction indicated by vector M. Then, the plurality of effect objects is made to sequentially disappear in proximate order from the location of the first object.

Harima discloses at col. 3, lines 4-8 that because the hit effect data is modeled into a particle, it is possible to variously express the hit effect on the basis of one hit effect data, for example, by changing a transparency, a color, a locus or the like of the particle. At col. 4, lines 10-14, Harima discloses that the hit effect generation section changes the hit effect data to generate the hit effect having a disappearing speed according to a strength or a technique of

the attack decided by the hit decision section. Further, Harima discloses at col. 10, lines 47-54 that the light source control unit 216 decides a light emitting time (the number of frames) according to the disappearing speed of the hit effect, that is, the speed of changing the transparency in the effect control data 514. Harima further discloses that thereafter, the light source control unit 216 gradually reduces the strength of the light source, that is, gradually returns to the state before the hit, according to the lapse of the light emission time.

As discussed during the interview, Harima does not teach or suggest any order by which the particles of hit effects disappear. Harima only discloses that "the hit effect is generated so as to have... the disappearing speed ... according to the strength and the techniques of the attack." See col. 6, lines 40-42 of Harima. Therefore, Harima does not teach or suggest that the hit effect disappear in proximate order, as recited in claim 1.

During the interview, the Examiners asserted that frames that show a progress of the light (hit effect) disappearing can be interpreted as the recited effect object. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

Frames show an image of objects that are captured by a camera at a given moment. Therefore, the frames are provided two-dimensionally. That is, the first frame is replaced by the second frame, the second frame is replaced by the third frame, and so on. Therefore, the frames of Harima are not provided three-dimensionally, as shown in Fig. 3A and 3B of the present application. Therefore, the frames cannot be interpreted as the plurality of effect objects, as recited in claim 1.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Harima.

Claim 8 recites displaying an effect object, the effect object being provided three-dimensionally at the side that the first object is going to move from a location of the first object, and making the effect object sequentially disappear from a side proximate to the

location of the first object at a time in which it is judged to start the motion of the first object. Similar to claim 1, Harima does not teach or suggest these features. Therefore, claim 8 is patentable over Harima.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 17 - 20 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1 and 8, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, a displaying section for, if it is judged to start the motion of the first object, displaying a plurality of effect objects, the plurality of effect objects being provided three-dimensionally at the side that the first object is going to move from a location of the first object, and a nondisplay section for making the plurality of effect object sequentially disappear in proximate order from the location of the first object at a time in which it is judged to start to the motion of the first object. Claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, a displaying section for, if it is judged to start the motion of the first object, displaying an effect object, the effect object being provided three-dimensionally at the side that the first object is going to move from a location of the first object, and a nondisplay section for making the effect object sequentially disappear from a side proximate to the location of the first object at a time in which it is judged to start the motion of the first object.

Similar to claims 1 and 8, respectively, Harima does not teach or suggest these features. Thus, claims 15 and 16 are patentable over Harima.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 4-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Harima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,211,882 to Pearce. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pearce is relied upon as teaching simulating the motion blur of a polygon, and does not overcome the deficiency of Harima with respect to claims 1 and 8. In particular, Pearce discloses a technique regarding a so-called motion blur. Pearce discusses a technique to generate an after effect in the area a moving body has moved, in the direction opposite to the

movement of the moving body. Therefore, claims 4-6 and 11 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1 and 8, respectively, as well as for additional features they recite.

Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

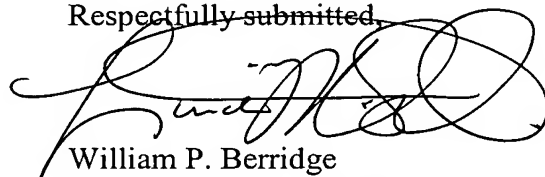
New claims 21-24 each recite that the first object is an attacked object and that the plurality of effect objects or the effect object is displayed behind the attacked object. These features are shown in Figs. 3A and 3B.

During the personal interview, the Examiners agreed that these features are not taught or suggested by any of the applied references. Therefore, claims 21-24 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1, 8, 15 and 16, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time

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